

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 SAJ-01 NEA-10 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 INR-10 RSC-01 L-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-07 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7749

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5316

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR US SREF (RUBIN, VITALIY)

SUBJECT: EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION: VITALIY RUBIN

REF: STATE 225732, 11/15/73; MOSCOW 2739

1. SOVIET SINOLOGIST VITALIY RUBIN AND WIFE VISITED EMBASSY APRIL 8 TO DISCUSS THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION SO THAT HE MAY TAKE POSITION OFFERED BY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. CONSOFF ESCORTED THEM PAST SOVIET MILITIAMEN POSTED OUTSIDE EMBASSY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. BACKGROUND: IN REVIEWING LONG-STANDING EFFORTS OBTAIN EXIT PERMISSION, RUBIN SAID FEBRUARY 1972 APPLICATION EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL WAS REFUSED ON GROUNDS HE IS "IMPORTANT SPECIALIST." THIS REFUSAL WAS CONFIRMED IN JULY 1972 BY MOSCOW OVIR OFFICIAL, WHO DECLINED GIVE REASON. RUBIN ATTEMPTED APPLY FOR EXIT PERMISSION TO US IN JANUARY 1973 ON BASIS INVITATION LETTER FROM COLUMBIA VICE PRESIDENT DEBARY. MOSCOW OVIR REFUSED TO CONSIDER HIS REQUEST, HOWEVER, ON GROUNDS THAT APPLICATIONS FOR ACCEPTING PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS ABROAD MUST BE MADE THROUGH PLACE OF OF EMPLOYMENT. RUBIN MADE WRITTEN APPEAL TO USSR MINISTER OF INTERIOR SHELOKOV IN JANUARY 1973 ASKING THAT APPLICATION TO US BE ACCEPTED AND EXPLAINING THA HE HAS BEEN OUT OF
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WORK SINCE HE WAS FIRED FOR APPLYING TO ISRAEL. NEGATIVE

REPLY WAS RECEIVED THROUGH MOSCOW OVIR IN MARCH 1973.

3. RECENT APPEALS: RUBIN SAID HE MADE RENEWED APPEAL IN OCTOBER 1973 IN LETTER TO GENERAL SOROCHKIN, WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SECTION FOR MOSCOW. (FYI: SOROCHKIN WAS EARLIER IDENTIFIED TO EMBASSY AS CHIEF OF MINISTRY OF INERIOR EXIT VISA REVIEW COMMISSION. END FYI) HIS WIFE MADE RENEWED APPEAL TO ALL-UNION OVIR ON JANUARY 11, 1974. RUBINS INFORMED CONSOFFS THAT SINCE NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO THESE APPEALS, THEY INTEND MAKE RENEWED APPROACH TO OVIR AUTHORITIES NEXT WEEK ON BASIS COLUMBIA INVITATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE MOST RECENT INVITATION FROM COLUMBIA IS DEBARY LETTER DATED MARCH 1973, EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT UP-DATED INVITATION MIGHT PROVE USEFUL IN SUPPORTING RUBINS' PLANNED APPEAL. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF NEW INVITATION CAME PERSONALLY FROM COLUMBIA PRESIDENT MCGILL, WHO HAS WIRTTEN BOTH THE SECRETARY (STATE REFTEL) AND BREZHNEV ON BEHALF RUBIN. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH SUGGEST TO MCGILL THAT HE SEND TELEGRAM TO RUBIN (AT HOME ADDRESS: TELEGRAFNIY PEREULOK 7, APT. 13, MOSCOW) ASAP REITERATING COLUMBIA INVITATION. COPY OF INVITATION SHOULD BE TELEXED TO EMBASSY IN CASE THAT ADDRESSED TO RUBIN IS INTERCEPTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT ADVISING OF ACTION TAKEN.

5. FYI: RUBINS STATED THEY NOW SUPPORTING THEMSELVES THROUGH MRS. RUBIN'S PRIVATE LANGUAGE LESSONS IN HEBREW (TWO CLASSES PER WEEK, EACH WITH THREE TO FOUR STUDENTS) AND GERMAN. THEY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR EMBASSY EFFORTS AND MILD OPTIMISM THAT THEIR CASE MAY BE RESOLVED "IN CONNECTION WITH IMPORVED US-USSR ATMOSPHERE." MOSCOW JEWISH SOURCE CLOSE TO RUBIN EXPRESSED VIEW TO CONSOFF IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, THAT LATTER'S CASE HIGHLY COMPLICATED DUE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE OF CHINA. WHEN CONSOFF POINTED OUT THAT RUBIN EXPERTISE IS PRINCIPALLY ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHY, SOURCE REPLIED: "YES, BUT THEY (SOVIET AUTHORITIES) FEAR THAT HE WOULD DEVELOP OVERNIGHT INTO EXPERT ON TODAY'S CHINA." SOURCE EMPHASIZED IN THIS REGARD THAT RUBIN IS, INTER ALIA, EXPERT ON CONFUCIUS.

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